A SPARKLING REPORT.

THE CHAMPAGNE REGION OF AMERICA

The Vineyards of Western New York.

TWENTY THOUSAND ACRES OF GRAPES.

Millions of Gallons of Wines.

AMERICA AS A RIVAL OF FRANCE

Grape Growing and Wine Making in Steuben. Yates, Schuyler, Canandaigun, Chautauqua and Ontario Counties.

RISE AND PROGRESS OF THE BUSINESS.

There are probably thousands of residents in the city of New York who are not aware that within a day's ride of their homes there is a region of country devoted to grape culture and wine making that has scarcely a rival for those purposes in the world. We refer particularly to the counties of Steuben, Schuyler, Yates and Ontario and to the borders of Lakes Kenka, Seneca, Cayura and Canandahrua, Of course grape culture is largely carried on in other parts of the State and nearer the metropo'is, especially by Stephen W. Underhill, at Croton Point N. Y.; but our object at present is to show the extent of the business as carried on within the extensive but compact region named. For this purpose we shall enter at once into a familiar description thereof, asking our readers to accompany a Herald representative as he proceeded to make his investi-HOW TO GET THERE.

Selecting Pleasant Valley as the objective point, with Hammondsport, situated on Kenka (the pretty Indian name for the homely Saxon one of Crooked) Lake, the reader will take the Eric Railroad cars a nine o'clock A. M., for Bath, N. Y., via Corning, Arriving at Bath about six in the evening, he can take either the regular stage conveyance or a private team for Hammondsport, eight miles distant, through a most lovely valley, or tarry over-night in Bath, where there is a good hotel. Hammondsport is not very well supplied with hotels, but citizens and the adjacent grape gently are very hospitable, and look after the comfort of visitors with fully as much cordiality as could ever be expected in the famous wine districts of once la belle France. And now, if the reader will take a short ride with

the HERALD representative, he will find himself in the elegant reception room of the extensive wine

PLEASANT VALLEY WINE COMPANY. C. Howell, President, and in company with Directors C. D. Champlin, Secretary and Treasurer, and Younglove and D. Rose, Superintendent Jule Masson, recognized as among the first in a knowledge of the art of cham-pagne wine making in America, and, while enjoying he genial and intelligent companionship of Dr. E. Van Keuren and several other gentlemen, some natives of the city of New York, let us gather a few

ORIGIN AND PROGRESS OF VINE AND WINE CULTURE

IN AMERICA.

This culture in Western New York is of modern origin, at the same time it has been rayld in develop ment and eminently successful in results. Many of our readers may be familiar with the fact that during our colonial and early subsequent bistory American vine and wine culture was undertaken at various points within our then limited Union of States, and in every instance failed. The cause of this fallure was found to be owing to the fact that every variety of grape planted was such as were grown in Continental Europe and utterly refused acclimation, adaptation or healthy producing growth

In the march of time and in the course of events the vinis vinifera, or European species, was abandoned and the discovery made that we had grown wild in our forests granes as excellent as the Cata wha and Isabella, that could be successfully grown, and trom which wine could be made of such excellence as to justify the hope that time and events would reveal to realization the possibility we now find cul-

THE PAILURE AT CINCINNATI.

With these varieties grape culture and wine making were undertaken and carried on for a few years with promise of continued success, at Cincinnati, Ohio; but after a few years disease made its appearance there, as in Southern Europe, and the vigne rous abandoned without a struggle for masters of the malady, their vines and the wine merchant being unable to supply himself with material for manufacture, and trade saw disaster skirting the once rosy-tinted horizon of their hopeful enterprise, and grape-grower and wine-maker alike looked to OTHER REGIONS OF COUNTRY

for success in their pursuits. This failure at Cincinnati occurred some fifteen years since, when, as if in obedience to an immutable decree that failure in any one thing should not be the lot of any wisely directed effort in these United States, it was found that besides the early culture of the Mission grape by the Jesuits in Southern California, from

whence our sherry wines are to come,

we say beyond this and the failures we have hinted at, there yet remained localities peculiarly adapted to the growth of the vine in health and its fruit in the highest excellence. American enterprise, that knows no rest for attainable object or purpose, wrought wonders in vine culture by producing by HYBRIDIZATION, OR CROSSING.

and discoveries of other new varieties of grapes a wondrous change for the better in this culture. As if under the direction of destiny new plantings of vines of the older and these new kinds were made simultaneously, so to speak, along what has since been found to be the
MOST HEALTHFUL HOME OF THE VINE,

the more northern border of Ohio and Western New York. To-day, while the borders of Lake Eric produce their hock wines, and the grapes from which sparkling champagne is made to some ex-

tent, the great champagne district, THE EPERNAY OF AMERICA. is in Western New York, and the great head centre

there is Pleasant Valley, Steuben county, at the head of Crooked, or, as we have stready said, Kenka Lake. Here vine and wine growing has attained to a degree of perfection and height of success, little, If any short of full and complete. Year after year, for more than a decade, the best and most delicate flavored wine grapes of American origin have been planted here, and grown and ripened in perfection; and year after year, for the same period of time has the planting of them increased and extended, until now there are in this vailey and about this take alone, it is estimated, somewhere between

FIVE AND SEVEN THOUSAND ACRES IN VINES. It may be interesting to some to know that the location of this place is but little more than three hundred and twenty-five miles from New York by the New York and Eric Raitroad, and about the same distance, nearly due north from the city of Washington, D. C., or 30 degrees west of its meridian and latitude north 42 degrees, 30 minutes. The altitude of Keuka Lake and Pleasant Valley is some 718 feet above tide water,

is one of a chain of takes, heading southward, running through the central portion of Western New York, about most of which grapes are grown successfully to a greater or less extent, as is the case with some of the table lands near Lockport, Ningara county and Fredonia, and Brocton, Chautauqua

county. Those conversalt with RURGPFRAN WINE CULTURE need not be reminded of the fact that Rheims, Epernay, Ay. Core-d'Or, as well as Johanisburg, are on the northern border of European wine cui-

inre, and that it is along such northern border that grapes are grown which give the highest flavor and receive from them like excellencies. About Pleasant Valley and Keuka Lake the alittude, configurations and surroundings give to the atmosphere. About Pleasant Valley and Keuka Lake the alittude, configurations and surroundings give to the atmosphere and continued exemption from dews and fogs most favorable for vine growing. This culture had a beginning here with the Catawba and isabeliz in garden planting some forty years ago, but not until 1854 or 1855 were they or other varieties grown in vineyard quantities. By 1850 this culture had been so far successful, and had so greatly extended as to suggest to a few of the more pecuniarily able and thoughtful the reasibility of organizing a wine company. The result was that of the forming of the Pleasant Valley.

Pleasant Valley.

HUNDIEDS OF THOUSANDS OF TONS of Catawbas, Isabelias, Deinware, Diana, Concord and Hartford grapes, neatly packed in three, five and ten pound boxes, found their way to New York city and other piaces on the seaboard and inland; yet notwithstanding this immense traffic it was found necessary, as the culture extended and varieties were added, to provide other means of disposing of the enormous yearty production of vineyards that then beited, at an average width three-fourths of a mile, the border of the lake and valley.

RAFID GROWTH OF THE WINE BUSINESS.

The following is a record of the business in wine manufacture of the Pleasant Valley Company, and will furnish an idea of the extend of the business of this company alone since its organization:—

this company alone since :	ts organization:-	112/2012/10/10
Bottles.		Eottles
1860 35,000	1863	
18 1 39,000		
1862271,800		
CATALLY CONTACTOR OF THE STATE	ALLE CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF	

Bottles.

ed as if they contained haund enough to quench the thirst of a multitude for a generation—one monster cask being of 4,000 gallons capacity. The upper part of the building is used for offices, press, betng, storage, boxing and shipping rooms—and the siness of the Company is increasing to such an

cask being of 4,000 gallons capacity. The apper part of the building is used for offices, press, botting, storage, boxing and shipping rooms—and the business of the Company is increasing to such an extent that workmen are almost constantly employed in making additions and improvements. THE MANFPACTURE OF SPARKLING WINES requires skill, capital and labor. We place "skill" first as a pre-requisite, for the reason that all the capital and unskined labor in the world cannot alone make good wine, no matter now perfect the fruit. Therefore experienced superintendents must give the directions, and as they are difficult to be bad in this country fortunate is the company that can secure the services of those who are properly posted up in the mysterious art. As we have before stated the Pleasant Valley company have been successful in this respect, and the work of sparkling whe making goes on in their establishment like clockwork. It is not generally known that all attempts at making command bottles in this country have proven failures; therefore they have to be procured from France at considerable cost. This is one item of expenditure not generally taken into account in estimating the cost of champagne making here. She corks, of a peculiar character, have to be imported from Spain Another drawback is, that while the foreign importer has a protection of five per cent against the producers of imitation or carbonized whe, the manufacturer of American sparkling wines has no such protection, and has to fight the bogus article with the pure article, in other words he has to wait a year or two until his wines reaches perfection while the caronizer can pop his dangerous stuff off at short notice as the real article, thereby seriously damagning the reputation of the entire American sparkling wine interest. But to return to the manufacture of the pure article. The best of grapes are procured, not one variety alone but all which in combination are found to produce the best results. In Making crampacture of the pure article. The bes

ties below, where the cooler temperature generally checks the bursting. In the cellar the bottles are placed in tiers, and, like legions of muralleuses, em ready to make sad havor among unwelcome truders. In these tiers the wine remains until it is time to give it the finishing touches before put-ting it on the market. The sediment is to be "dis-gorged" and the gas retained. This operation re-quires much skill and patience. The bottles are gorged and the gas retained. This operation requires much skill and patience, The bottles are placed in racks, with the corss downward. Workmen give the wine a twirling motion every little while for the space of four or five weeks, or until the sediment is worked downward and accumulates on the corks. The rack is then hoisted above, the bottle uncorked and the sediment and a slight portion of the wine gushes out. A small quantity of syrup, made of rock candy dissolved in wine, is then put into the bottle by an ingenious machine, a new cork, about which a copper class is firmly fixed, and which answers the purpose of a strong wire, inserted, and in a twinkle the cork is twined, foiled, the bottle labelled, wrapped in pink colored paper, and the wine is soon ready for market. Gathering the Grapes—Prople AND Capital Exployed.

The grape harvest is the most exhilarating season that occurs in the grape growing regions. It generally occurs about the middle of September—mot far hence—and all hands, men and women, boys and girls, high and low, rich and poor, turn out for a joily time. A large portion of the crop is generally soid to the wine makers before the fruit matures, therefore the question of saie, transportation or market does not intervene to mar the himarity of the big and little folks—the grower as well as the picker. In the Pleasant Valley region alone there are more

market does not intervene to mar the injurity of the big and little folks—the grower as well as the picker. In the Pleasant Valley region alone there are more than two thousand persons interested in grape culture, involving a capital in the aggregate of at least two militons yearly. When the season for gathering the grapes is in full blast if is sale to estimate the number of people interested and engaged in the business in various capacities in the western part of this State at upwards of twenty thousand, the ground covering their field of labor at TWENTY THOUSAND ACRES, and the capital employed at upwards of five millions of dolars. Surely, taking the vineyards of Western New York for an example—and they have no parallet for extent this side of the Rocky Mountains—the grape and wine culture of the country is an interest of vast moment.

grape and wine culture of the country is an interest of vast moment.

NAMES AND CHARACTER OF PLEASANT VALLEY CHAMPAGNE BRANDS.

The first champagne brand of Pleasant Valley was named after the state of New York, "Empire." The second was called the "Paris Exposition." The first of these was a pure Catawba wine; the other was a combination of wines, which met with such general favor as to induce the company to put it into competition at the Exposition Universale, Paris, 1867, where it won the highest honor awarded to any American sparking wine, viz., "Honorable Menton."

With this brand of their sparkling wine much was With this brand of their sparkling wine much was done for the advancement of not the Interest alone of the Pleasant valley Wine Company, but for American wine culture generally. In the combination of several wines of different strength, navor and bonquet was found, it is believed, the Secret of their success; a discovery made and put in practice by no former champagne makers in the United States. In 1896, with the increased production of the finer varieties of grapes, they were enabled to still further improve and vary the combination and to bring out their

Carte Blanche.

This was still another advance step in their successful progress in champagne making, and so well was it received by the American public that

AN ENGLISH NOBLEMAN, visiting this country was induced on his return home to institute negoriations for its sale in Europe. It has been found that the agitation of even bottled wine incident to a voyage across the Atlantic improves it beyond what the most thoughtful had supposed.

With the reputation thus far attained, to say

while incident to a voyage across the Adantic improves it beyond what the most thoughtful had supposed.

With the reputation thus far attained, to say nothing of pecuniary success, which was flattering, most others than Americans would have been quite satisfied; but as they are never so, in the course of time, which in this case was short, another and further effort at combining and perfecting was made in 1870, resulting in what is now known as the "GREAT WESTERN" OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY WINE COMPANY.

Of the excellence of this wine it is enough to say that Marshal P. Wilder, President of the National Pomological Society, thought it deserving the name he gave it, and that a wine of less excellence should not receive one so broad, so noble and national. It has nardly yet been fully introduced into market; but wherever it has been used it has been pronounced equal in favor, brilliancy, bouquet and peculiar fruitness to almost any brand of champagne imported. Give it an equal age, and its makers will challenge a trial with nearly every foreign, as they do now with any American, manufacture.

THE FROCESS

by which these wines are made is the same as that of the best quality manufactured in France. The varieties of grapes are, of course, different, out, so

IMPORTANT TO VINE GROWERS. It may be important and of practical interest to hose contemplating engaging in this culture to

know something of the details of vine growing in this region.

In the selection of a site or a plat of ground it is of the first importance that the atmosphere be dry above it, and that the soil itself be dry or made so by ditching and underdraining; that it be near a by ditching and underdraining; that it be near a look at the soil itself be dry or made so by ditching and underdraining; that it be near a look acres. This company are preparing to build a series. know something of the details of vine growing in this region.

In the selection of a site or a plat of ground it is of the first importance that the atmosphere be dry above it, and that the soil itself be dry or made so by ditching and underdraining; that it be near a body of water or peculiarly sheltered from cold winds and unseasonable frosts; and, as experience has shown, for the highest excellence of fruit that the soil be poor rather than rich, with a slope or inclination to the south in the main.

Greatest success has attended the pianting upon drift formations of coarse gravelly clay, or on argifacious shale, with the vines from five to eight feet apart, after the soil has been plowed and subsolied to the depth of fifteen or twenty inches. Preference has been given to one year old vines grown out door, from two or inree-eyed cuttings, planted in the month of May, at corn planting time, and six inches deep. Clean culture to follow, and when of sufficient size, from one to three shoots, varying with amount of growth, supported on stakes this the third or fourth year, when a trellis, using No. 11 wive, supported on stakes from fifteen to twenty-four feet apart, and three wires to the trellis, at an average of eighteen inches from the ground, and each other upward, the wires being held in place by stables made for the purpose and end stakes supported by braces.

THE ANNUAL PRUNING

necessary to limit and distribute the growth, seconded by training to the lower wire, and in extreme growth the second also. Well grown vines in foil ocaring will fill the trellis and yield from two TO THEE TONS TO THE ACRE.

The system of pruning recommended and practiced by Dr. Guyot, of France, and Professor Fredrich Mohr, of Germany, have preference in the Pleasant Valley grape region and on inland waters.

The TO TO THEE TONS TO THE ACRE.

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kilt, N. Y.

2. Delaware—Origin unknown, supposed New Jersey: brought out by a Mr. Thompson from Dela-ware, Ohio. ware, Ohio.

3. Catawba—As is well known originated in North Carolina; brought out by Major Adlam, of Washington, N. C.

4. Diana—Named after Mrs. Diana Crehore; originated near Boston.

ginated near Boston.

5. Concord—Originated in Concord, Mass.

6. Isabella —Weil known; brought out by Major Gibbs, of South Carolina, and named after Mrs. Gibbs. Succeeds better North than South.

The above varieties are all grown in Pleasant Valley. It requires a combination of them all to make champagne, fine dry wines and sherry. Many other varieties are grown for market alone, such as—1. Hartford Prolific; 2. Israella (Grant's); 2. All of Rogers' (Salem), numbers hybridised; 4. Rebecca (white), named for Mrs. Rebecca Peak, of Hudson, N.Y. on, N. Y.

The following varieties are grown exclusively for

The following varieties are grown exclusively for DEEP RED WINES—CLARRY AND PORT—ALL ELACK.

1. Norton's Virginia Seedling—(Originated at Richmond, Va., by Dr. Norton).

2. Ives' Seedling—(Originated at Cincinnati).

3. Clinton—Originated near Rochester. N. Y., where Enlwanger & Barry's Nursenes, the largest in the world, are situated, and where attention to the production of new varieties of grapes could, no doubt, he profitable directed. doubt, be profitably directed).

4. Oporto—(Not much grown here. Mixed for claret and port).

NEW VARIETIES.

The following varieties of grapes for wines and table are grown, but their value has not yet been fully tested:—

fully tested:

NEW VARIETIES NOT FULLY TESTED.

L. Eumelan—black—(Originated on the Hudson by Dr. Grant).

Watter—red—(Originated by L. M. Ferris, of

 Waiser-red-Originated by L. M. Ferris, of Poughkeepsie).
 Croton-Raised by Stepnen W. Underhill, Croton Point, N. Y. Just introduced on Canandadgua Lake by Dr. Underhill himself. Not fruited to any extent, yet promising great excellence in habit, health and strength of vine and fruit). strength of vine and fruit).

4. Senasqua—black—(Originated with Dr. Underhill. Promises good as a table fruit only).

5. Una—white—(Originated with Mr. Bull, of Hartford, who brought out the Concord, Good hapit of
vine. Flavor of fruit ratner foxy, and therefore ob-

yine. Fravor of fruit fames 1005, and according to plectionable.

6. Martha Seedling—white—(Originated at Concord. Excellent habit of vine. Same objection to Iruit as to the Una).

EXCURSION ON LAKE REUKA—THE URBANA COMPANY. If the reader will now accompany the HERALD representative and a pleasant party of ladies and contamen in the pretty little steam yacht Kenka, representative and a pleasant party of ladies and gentlemen in the pretty little steam yacht keuka, he will take an excursion upon the pelincid waters of the lake around its vine-covered shores and hulsides, and enjoy one of the most delightful and refreshing breatning spells that he, we warrant, scarcely ever before relished. But as we have not space to enumerate all the pleasurable occurrences on the excursion, we will be obliged to "shock to business" and give an account of a visit to the buildings of a wine company, a few miles from Hammon-sport, in which many people in New York will take an interest, inesmuch as one of their well known fellow citizens, D. M. Hiddreth, formerly of the New York Hotel, is President of the company.

the New York Hotel, is President of the company, we refer to the

URFANA WINE COMPANY.

Which was organized in 1e55 and has 225 acres of grape land, carefully selected. The buildings were erected in the summer of the above year, and are substantially constructed of stone quarried in the neighborhood. The two celiars are entered by entrances fronting the lake, and are each 195x22 feet in the clear. The system of manufacturing wine is similar to that described in the Pleasant Valley. Winery, 'and, like that establishment, the Urbana Company have as a superintendent an eminent French artist in wine, in the person of Charles Le Breton, a native of Nantes, who is a graduate of the celebrated Heidsick and Roederer celiars in France. The still and sparking wines of this com-France. The still and sparkling wines of this com-pany are growing in public layor, as will be seen by

the following statistics:— STILL WINES MANUFACTURED BY THE URBANA COM-70ns. Gal'ons.
1865 15 2,409 1893 188 28,000
1866 73 12,509 1869 130 12,000
1867 108 10,600 1870 549 91,200
SPARKLING WINES MADE. Bottles

1867... 20,000 1859... 100,000
1868... 60,000 1870... 120,000
The different brands of sparking made by the Urbana Company are known to the trade and consumers as the
"IMPERIAL," THE "URBANA" AND "GOLD SEAL."
The imperial is made from a mixture of Catawba, Isabelia and belaware; the Urbana is from a single grape, not widely known; and the Gold Seal is from the same grapes as the imperial, with a portion of lona added. As we have before stated, the business of this company has increased seventy-five per cent the past year. An order for 1,000 bottles has just been filled for New Orleans, where the President once kept a hotel—the St. Cuaries. The company is evidently in a flourishing condition, and their luscious wines are making the hips of bon victoris smack with pleasure wherever they can be obtained.

obtained.

CHIEF VINE GROWERS AND WINE MAKERS.

Without preceding in the control of the control

Obtained.

Cotter vine growers and wine makers.

Without pretending in this hastily prepared report to give a list of even a moiety of the names of those engaged in this great vine growing and wine making district—not inabily termed the "Rhine and Epernay of America"—we will mention a few who cultivate len acres and upwards, giving them without particular regard to geographical position:—PLEASANT VALLEY AND KEUKA LAKE.

The Pleasant Valley Wine Company, by their stockholders, cultivate over 250 acres, and are the largest purchasers from the smaller growers in the vicinity, reaching many thousand tons of grapes during a season. Dr. E. Van Keuren, who is a vine growing expert, as well as a scholar, an editor, a traveller and a jolly companion everywhere, grows seventy acres: the Urbana Company (on the lake, 225 acres. The large growers of ten acres or more are G. H. Wheeler, T. M. Younglove, D. Rose, H. O. Faircmid, George W. Nichols, F. M. & George McDowell, D. S. Wiezener, Pratt & Gillett, J. W. Prenters, E. Burgess, — Giffen (of New York), A. Hadden and many others, not incoding the hundreds who grow grapes in vineyards of less than ten acres, making the grand aggregate from five to seven thousand acres.

THE CANANDALIGUA LAKE GRAPE REGION.

en acres, making the grand acres.

THE CANANDAIGUA LAKE GRAPE REGION. THE CANANDAIGUA LAKE GRAPE REGION.

The village of Naples, at the head of the lake, is an old vine growing point, next in importance to Hammondsport, Hon. E. B. Poutle and J. W. Clark (brother of ex-Governor Myron C. Clark) are prominent growers. In Vine Valley, six miles down the east side of the lake, Major Hixson, H. Green and Drs. Nichols and Seelye are large growers. Across the lake, at Seneca Point, Messrs. Morse and Welles, extorness in Canandaisma village, are growers.

the lare, at seneca Point, Messrs. Morse and Weiles, attorneys in Cananodagua village, are growers.

At Lockport, Niagara county, Ringerburger, C. L. Hoag, E. Moody and J. H. Rabcock are the largest growers. One of these gentlemen in 1869 grew of Isabelia grapes to the acre, and the next year three and a half tons marketable.

of Isabelia grapes to the acre, and the next year three and a haif tons marketable.

CHACTAUGUE GOUNTY.

At Fredonia Dr. S. Mitchell, T. L. Hubbard and Rev. A. Wheelock have large vineyards—say five hundred acres in all. At Brecton one thousand acres. T. S. Harris & Co. have forty or fifty acres new plantings, thirty of which are in Salem grapes—one of Rogers' numbers—but they are not fruiting well this summer. His Salem is a large red grape, supposed to be superior for both table and wine; yet it remains to be seen how far it excels others, better known and more promising, for immediate profit. It is mamed after the place of its origin, Salem, Mass. We may mention in this connection that E. C. Rogers, of Salem, as is known, brought before the public over fifty hybrids, as they are called. His No. 4 is called now Wider, for President Wilder. Though a few are valued for shipping purposes, no wine nas been made and offered to the public.

CAYUGA LAKE VINE-GRUWING REGION.

Dr. S. J. Parker, of Ithaca, at the head of Cayuga Lake, has given especial attention to the "hybridization" (which, for the benefit of the unmittated reader we will explain, is effected by crossing the species by applying the polien of the blossom of one variety of grape with that of another.) Dr. Parker is an intelligent writer on grape culture, and in connection with Messrs. Tacker & Hungerford, they together give an impetus to the culture about this lake that is working great good to it. Dr. H. H. Farley, at Union Springs, near the foot of the lake, is a grower of some prominence, as are many others both of large and small degree.

SENEZA LAKE REGION,
about twenty miles westward from Cayuga, has at Watkins (where the famous Watkins' Glee is situated), J. H. Pope, who has a vineyard of tweive acres, and is constructing buildings and a vault to make into wine his own production.

SENECA LAKE GRAPE AND WINE CONTACT.

This company are preparing to build a wine cellar and to enter in the business with enterprise and spirit.

HOW THE GRAPES ARE SHIPPED TO MARKET.

Not the most uninteresting and important part of the most uninteresting and important part of the stine and graph graph interest is the method

prise and spirit.

How the grapes are shipped to Market.

Not the most uninteresting and important part of this wine and grape growing interest is the method by which the product is snipped to market. For this purpose it is only necessary to give a brief description of the extensive

GRAPE BOX AND CHAMPAGNE CASE PACTERY

of Fairchild Brothers, in Hammondsport. This firm originated the style of package for shipping grapes in good order great distances by rail some nine years since. Commission fruit dealers in New York city give these packages preference over all others for bringing the contents to market in the best order—and it has this other advantage, of occupying the least possible space in carrying where room is valuable. Of these boxes from 350,000 to 400,000 are made and sold annually. John Knox, of Pittsburg, Pa., used of these boxes in one year 32,000 for marketing his fruit. The Fairchilds have opened a trade with the California grape growers, which promises to be for the mutual advantage of box makers and fruit growers. Their establishment is so complete in all its appointments that they can produce 5,000 boxes daily from the log. The making of champagne cases alone consumes 200,000 feet of lumber—a branch of business yearly on the increase—as is their grape packages are shipped by way of Bath, Pen Yan, Naples, Canandaigua, Watkins, Geneva, &c., to the great railways of the State, whence they find their way to all parts of the World.

of the world.

THE PRESENT PROSPECTS FOR THE GRAPE CROP. If "out of abundance the heart speaketh," the hearts of the people in the grape-growing region this season will be almost "too full for uterance." The prospect at this time (August 18) was never so promising for an extraordinary yield, and that, too, of fruit of superior quality, both for the table and the wine press. But notwithstanding the large crop, prices are expected to rule high, for ten cents a pound have already been paid for one vineyard's gathering—probably fifty tons—by a prominent wine maker. That prices will not rule lower several reasons are given, namely:—First, the extra demand for wine making, in consequence of the increased demand for American wines, the trade now being very brisk; second, the demand for shipping fruit; third, the early appearance of peaches, which will end that trade sooner than usual and make room for grapes; fourth, the short crops of apples, cherries, plums, ac.; fifth, the increasing appetite of our people for grapes as a decicous and wholesome table fruit, and sixth, and not the least of all, the appearance of that terribe scourge of the vine in France, the philazera rastatrix, which, having destroyed the greater part of the vineyarus of varictuse and Arles, has invaded those of Languedoc, Aix, Lambeoo, Rognac, Mille, Equilles, &c., and is reported to be devastating those usually fruitful regions. If the corn crops of Europe affect the prices of breadstafs in this country why should not a failure in the grape crop of France similarly affect grape culturists in this If the world.

THE PRESENT PROSPECTS FOR THE GRAPE CROP.

If "out of abundance the heart speaketh," the

**AMERICAN BRANDIES.

**The amount of American brandy manufactured by the Pleasant Valley, the Urbana and other companies in the district we are referring to is gradually increasing, and its quality continually improving. It is undoubtedly the pure article. All it wants is age, and this the companies should see that it has if they would have it compete with foreign brands in our market.

of much importance to the vine-growing and wine-making interests of the State will be the holding of the annual State Pair of the Grape Growers' Associ-ation, in Hammondsport, on the 28th, 27th and 28th of September.

of September.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding the above hurriedly compiled report of one of the most remarkable grape growing regions in the country this side of the Rocky Mountains, and rivalling in many respects the best wine districts in France, the Herald representative begs to be allowed to return his thanks for kind attentions and generous hospitality extended by C. D. Champlin, of Picasant Valley, to officers of the Urbana Wine Company, and to many others, vine growers and wine makers, who contributed to make his brief sojourn in Picasant Valley and vicinity an event to be embaimed forever among the pleasantest of memories.

STATISTICS OF HOMICIDES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 29, 1871. The following table exhibits the number of homicides in each State and Territory during the year ending May 31, 1870, as compiled from the mortality returns at the Census Office, August 29, 1871:-

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labama 96	4	100	New Mexico 54	o	64
rkansas 70	- 6	76	New Jersey 5	ő	- 6
TIZODA 44	0	41	New York 56	14	5 70
alifornia 40	- 2	45	North Carolina. 43	5	48
Colorado 36		37	Ohio 57		61
Connecticut 6	0			*	5
connecticut 6	ň	6	Oregon 5	0	
Delaware 4	U	1	Pennsylvania 52	3	55
Dagota 4	3		Rhode Island 4	- 1	5
Dis. Columbia 10	3	13	South Carolina, 35	- 4	37
Florida 40	35.5	44		6	117
Jeorgia108	8	116		13	328
daho 2	0	2	Utah 1	U	1
Illinois 49	7	5b	Vermout 63	10	7.8
ndiana 30	2	32	Washington 8	U	8
owa 23	1	24	West Virginia 9	0	9
Kansas 87	5	42	Wisconsin 14	2	16
Kentucky 71	2	73	Wyoming 13	0	13
fil squisino.	17	128		LANB	
datpe 6	1	7	Arizona 31	0	31
Maryland 17	3	20	Colorado 29	0	29
dassachusetts. 16	6	- 60	Daketa 4	0	4
Michigan 10	ĭ	11	Kansas 8		10
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Montana 25				Ö	100
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And the party of the last of t			-	-	-

A CONVENT IN CINCINNATI DESTROYED BY

FIRE.

(From the Cincinnati Enquirer, August 24.)
This morning, thirty minutes after the hour of midnight, when devastating flames create their greatest consternation, an alarm of fire was turned in from box 141, at the corner of Freeman and Bank streets. A second alarm followed in quick succession, and the Fire Department responded with its usual promptness.

sion, and the Fire John State of the In the buildings situated on Bank Street, between Freeman and Baymhiler, owned and occupied by the Society of the Good Shepherd. The good Sisters had all retired to their beds, when the cry of fire was heard, then Don their slumpers. The outer which roused them from their slumbers. The outer gates were all locked, but the keys were as prompily procured as possible amid the general fright. The first object was to see that none of the Sasters of the convent were within the burning building. Lieutenant Lawrence, of Oliver street station nouse, passed through the building and looked in every room to see that all was well, Fortunate as this was, there was much valuable property, furniture, clothing, Ac., which was the property of the Sisters and the society. The flames originated in the garret, at the northwest corner of the dwelling, directly over the baking department. How the flames were communicated cannot be ascertained, as the first word of warning came from the streets, at which time the roof was cracking like tinder with the flames. The Sisters have taken the utmost precaution against accidents of this kind.

The roof of the building, of which there are two wings, was the portion where the fire waxed hottest, but portions of the interior were also damaged, while all the bousehold articles will be more or less injured, and some totally destroyed.

The scene at the chapel in the rear of the burning building was very impressive. The Sisters for the greater portion retired to the chapel and were occupied in offering devotion; arrayed in their imposing robes their faces expressed the faith that actuates their lives. The general effect was singularly awe the building might be saved.

Through the kindness of Sister Mary Stanislau Jacobs our reporter was conducted to the Mother Superior of the Convent of the Good Shepherd, through whose courtesy we are able to give the following particulars in regard to losses:

The original cost of the two buildings, the convent and the chapel, was \$16,000, upon which was in the

The original cost of the two buildings, the convent and the chapel, was \$16,000, upon which there was an insurance of \$10,600, \$5,000 of which was in the Germania Insurance Company, and the balance in the Sun Insurance Company, both of this city. There were seventy sisters, under the charge of the Mother was a supported by the sungred bubble.

the Mother Superior.

Before three o'clock this morning the mastery of the flames had been completed, and the Fire Department had added another leaf to its laureis. It is but before three o'clock this morning the mastery of the flames had been completed, and the Fire Depart-ment had added another leaf to its laurels. It is but just to say that, amid all the dangers, the Sisters displayed remarkable coolness and self-possession. The loss falls very heavy on the Society, as it was by the exertions of the Sisters of the Order that the money was secured to erect the handsome building which the flames seized this morning.

BAD BAEKSDALE. NEW YORK, August 20, 1871.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—
In the account of the arrest of Ford C. Barksdale published in the HERALD it is stated that he is an eattor of Our Society. I beg leave to state through your columns that Barksdale has had no connection with that publication since last spring, and a state-ment to that effect has been published at the head of its editorial page for the past two months. O. D. TAYLOR, Proprietor Our Society.

A CENTENARIAN TURNED OUT OF DOORS BY HER A CENTENARIAN TURNED OUT OF DOORS BY HER DAUGHTER.—Margaret Driscoll, a woman los years of age, and residing with her daughter, fifty years of age, at 54 South street, was wandering around in that street last night, having been put out of the house by her hard-hearted daughter. Officer McCarty found her and took her home, where she was most snamefully treated by her daughter.—Bos on Harald. August 23,

THE GOLD WAR ON THE STUMP.

A Miners' Blast in the Amador Democracy.

"Bolting" Scene at a County Convention.

Night Picture of the California Canvass.

The Indian, the Nigger and Chinee as Listeners.

SUFFER CREEK, Cal., August 15, 1871. Saptent Englishmen, who belong to what is known as the governing class, and even those who hang upon its coat tails and live by its bounty, are in the habit of attributing the preservation of political equilibrium among them to the fact that the men who make demagognes in other lands gravitate toward parochiai offices in theirs. This selfconceited opinion is manifest in its absurdity to any one acquainted with English life, for, as a genera rule, parish matters are left there mostly to a very few, and those the least likely, under any circum stances, to aspire to anything higher. THE DEMOGOGUE, EVEN IN AMERICA.

is a speculator, rather than a steady, business man, and, as in all countries, his principal capital is tongue and cheek. The way that a man's vote comes home to nim in a free country, while the system of gov ernment gives scope to demagogues of all classes, yet makes their real influence the less; and, following the popular, contemptuous phrase of the day, spread-eagleism is liberally DENOUNCED AS "POPPICOTT."

This strain of thought, coming from the supposed seat of a labor war, is induced by the change which nas taken place in events here. THE AMERICAN SAFRTY VALVE

has been regularly opened. and oratorical steam is escaping ever since. On that evening the democratic primary was held here, and after the delegates were elected Mr. James Phelan, State Senator from Nevada, harangued the Leaguers on the rights of labor. He is a miner, and, while putting orth the well-known philippies in odd form against the

MEN WHO HOLD THE CLINK OF DOLLARS in their hands," made use of the following startling expressions:-"Governor Haight sent down the soidiers. Now, don't he know that a body of working men, rendered desperate, can destroy more in a month than all the soldiers of California could build up in a year?" He afterward added, strangely equough, as an afterthought:-"But this is a doctrine which should neither be advanced nor sustained." His strong point was an invitation to vote against Haight. This was loudly applauded and seconded in pure Californian. Mr. Phelan is a republican, and some think that his sympathy or the miners of Sutter Creek was in the interest of Newton Booth, the republican candidate for Governor. The fire of his remarks, however, has been quenched, and politics, not this time in disguise, is the horse doing all the running.

Since my arrival in this vicinity I have been told

by those opposed to the Miners' League that that body had no real cause of discontent on the score of wages. It was, they said, owing to the machina-

A FRW DESIGNING MEN.

with an eye to political capital, that any strike was made at all. The Leaguers, on the contrary, aver that their movement was one directed solely to a specific adjustment of the rate of wages, and that the political issue was forced on them by their opponents. From all statements the following is a fair opinion of the truth on either side:—The proposed change in the wage rate, while self-sacrificing on the part of some,

When that error was made by the Leaguers their political plan was not mapped out. The mineowners, believing that the Sheriff of the county unfavored the Leaguers, immediately took ground politically on the question, and from that date forward there has been hard work on both sides to make up a good ticket, 12 which the Leaguers have been fairly beaten. Unfortunately for the democratic party, the con-The most butter feeling has been exhibited on both of 550, but a unit in action, took heart of grace from the situation. The battie, which was won by the anti-leaguers at the primaries, looks, therefore, as if it will

COST THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY very dearly. The exchement culminat COST THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY very dearly. The excuement culminated at the county convention held at Jackson, and which, as announced by telegraph, resulted in a "bolt" by the Leaguers' minority. Their purpose was avowed freely as soon as they had sounded the depth of their inability to carry the convention. This was pretty well known on the Saturday previous, and the party managers on both sides were busy all Sunday offering terms on both sides to wnomsoever would join them. The convention met at the Court House, which was filled with sympathisers from all parties.

the party managers on both sides to whomsoever would join them. The convention met at the Court House, which was filled with sympathisers from all parties.

A STALWART, MUSCULAR CROWD they made, and, with very few exceptions, their uterances were both and free, after the approved California pattern. As soon as the permanent officers were appointed the meeting was caned to order by the chairman, and the combatants glared with a poisshed savagery upon each other. The chairman counselled moderation, a counsel which left upon heedless ears. A sort of test vote was taken on the question as to whether the voting should be crea cocc or by ballot. The Leaguers, who wanted every man "to speak right out like a man," lost this painfully andibly, for the "noes" shouted with thunderous lungs their dissent. The nominations were now in order, and a Leaguer proposed with thunderous lungs their dissent. The nominations were now in order, and a Leaguer proposed with thunderous lungs their dissent. The nominations were now in order, and a leaguer proposed with thunderous lungs their dissent. The nominations were now in order, and a leaguer proposed or when he had a she had the said of the light and be sure he il be on hand. The has held the office for the last lour years, and although some talk about giving no man an office for a lifetime (a spiteful stance at the majority), I say when you have such a sheriff keep nim." (Lond applaase by the minority.) The leader of the anti-Leaguers, the present State. Senator, Mr. Jem Farley, now arose to nominate his sandidate, "a much respected citizen; a man untried it is true, but one in whom the whole country has confidence, and a man whom at least you should give a trial—John vogan." (Applause from the majority.) The candidates are now called on "to denne their positions," and George Durnam, "the natorial sheriff," satiks in in his white duster and takes the stand. A baleful light flashed from under the shagy brows of the orawny six-footer, and sheriff, satiks in mis his high provided the

cratic convention, but one gotten up by certain men who have

Arrayed Capital. Against Lagors. I appeal to every man who carns his bread to weigh this, not to the staves of capital, who crook the pregnant hinges of the knee that thrill may follow fawning. I have as much political sagacity as many a man, and I tell you that this labor question is the one which is coming, and in such form as that you cannot dodge it. In that day you will be fain to cry, 'Thou canst not say I did it.' (Cheers from the leaguers.) John Egan had finished, and he walked out of the court room, and hot foot at his heels followed fourteen more of the delegates, leaving Farley and his friends masters of the ingiorious field. This did not please the latter, and Farley, who, as well as Egan, is a lawyer, stood up and stoutly delegated the annual

democracy of one convention. He denied the charge of setting up an anu-latior party, and asked bitterly if Egaa would not for a \$500 fee. "Perhaps," he added, "it is because he has not had the chance. Let any man who desires to ge do so, and we shall know where to find him."

sires to ge do so, and we shall know where to find him."

The natural Sheriff again was sent for and declared he asked nothing at the hands of the Couvention. It was now, of course, a walk over for the other candidates. There was one apparent exception—the leaguers' County Treasurer nominee—who made a clever speech of devotion to the Convention and thus gamed his point. The leaguers have since wasned their nands of him, and say they are sorry to beat him; but do it they must. I have given this much space to this small county matter because it is the channel into which the troublous strike has been turned. It is

A SAMPLE OF THE SMALL TROUBLES

with which the democratic party has to contend on the 4th of next month. It is undoubtedly true that a large number of the miners, in and out of leagues, will change their vote. There are squabbles in a number of sure democratic counties which tend to make these counties far from sure. At Mokelumne Hill, in Calaveras county, on Wednesday night, Lewis and Brown, the democratic candidates for Lieutenant Governor and Comptroller, scarcely drew an audience of one hundred and lifty. Among them were

A CHINAMAN, AN INDIAN AND A NIGGER.

Lieutenant Governor and Comptroller, scarcely drew an audience of one hundred and afty. Among them were

A CHINAMAN, AN INDIAN AND A NIGGER.

The stand was erected at the corner of the street and illuminated with candles. Whoever could find chairs in front of the hotels sat down; the rest either squatted on the road or stood. The speaker was eloquent upon the "westward the course of empire" platform involving the destruction of all inferior races that stood in its way. At this juncture the lindian rode in magestically, followed by

THERE SQUAWS ON FOOT.

He was dressed much like everybody else, and, having tied his mustang to a tree, took up a position to disten to the speaking, while the ragged, wretched squaws huddled themselves together on a door step in the shadow. It was scarcely possible to wax poetic on this semi-civilized specimen of the Lo family. If he felt any regrets they were not visible on his stolid face, and the best baisam Heaven ever sent for injury is insensibility, or, as his brothers of the Apaches or Arapahoes would think—revenge. The speaker, having demolished the abortgines in a few brinstone-smelling phrases, now turned his fierce attention to the "Asianic plague"—the heathen Chinee. "We believe in the latherhood of God, but not in the brotherhood of man," said the Lieutenant Governor expectant, and forthwith assailed the imported Mongolians and all who arose in their behalf. A Chinese washerman, dressed in spotiess whire, with his long pigtail danging about his heels, came through the crowd with a snigger of huntor on his face. He was smoking a long reed pipe, and regarded the motions of the speaker with much attention to some moments, and, evidently mitstaking Coionel Lewis for a mountebank medicine vender, turned away, saying,

"Too Muchies Talker, No Good

Colonel Lewis for a mountebank medicine vender, turned away, saying,
"TOO MUCHEE TALKEE, NO GOOD
Melican man." This was not heard by any of the more rabid, or it might have been the last of Sin Lung. On the "new departure" question the blacks were of course treated to a denunciation, which their being fellow-citizens gained for them. The nigger in the crowd did not budge an incumula the diatribe was over, and then he ambied away chucking. Between dissensions in the State and county organizations, the democratic ticket, stands in great danger, and if the three democratically prescribed races look for pleasure in the de-

stands in great danger, and if the three democratio-ally proscribed races look for pleasure in the de-feat of their enemies, the latter seem inclined to-force them experts for the appears to be particularly friendless just now, since the re-publicans have also taken dove-tailed and anti-codie plank in their platform. So nearly alike in professions on national questions are the two parties that the interest in the campaign is centred on railroad subsidies and lottery bills. In Calaucras county the democratic majority is not more than eighty and in Amador county not more than three hundred on the regular ticket. In the former it is feared

feared

THERE ARE SOREHEADS ENOUGH
to defeat the unterrifled, and in the latter the botting miners, to the number of about three hundred
and fifty, propose to elect the radicals. Democrats
and republicans are getting anxious now, and
money will be freely used. Thanks to politics,
things otherwise are quiet here, and some citizens
are said to be secretly at work forming a vigilance
committee to keep things so. Water, the supply of
which is failing, would be the great panacea for all
the fuss.

BROOKLYN AFFAIRS.

sioner Winslow yesterday on the charge of retail-

ing liquor on Staten Island, without paying the

A Revenue Delinquent. James O'Reilly was before United States Commis-

special tax required by law. He was held to ball in the sum of \$500 to await a hearing on the 9th of September. About one o'clock yesterday afternoon Valentine Conneily, fifty-three years of age, while at work in a pank of earth corner of Tweifth street and Seventh

avenue, Gowanus, was sunstruck and died instant-ly. Deceased resided in Twenty-first street, near Turd avenue. The body was removed to the Morgue, where an inquest will be held.

Boarding House Thief. A tall, thin, fair-complexioned, middle-aged man, of fair address, has for several weeks past been going the rounds of respectable boarding houses, engaging rooms and meals and then waiking of with anything portable of value that he could con-veniently get hold of. Yesterday he stole a gold watch and chain from the residence of Miss Bruden-burg, 431 Clinton street.

What Benzine Will De. Philip Cunther, a German, residing in Twenty-first street, near Fourth avenue, returned to

his home at a late hour last night pretty thoroughly saturated internally with the bad Bourbon of the district in which he dwells. He threw his pantaloons out the of window, and the garment, which contained the sum of \$75, was picked up by some soher neighbor, and carried off. Gunther mourns his loss.

Crushed to Death.

Arthur Walters, a native of Germany, employed in the Long Island Sugar Refinery, was so shockingly injured on Monday night by being accidentally caught in a centrifugal machine he had charge of there that he died at his residence, No. 238 First street, Williamsburg, yesterday. Henry Fuller, a fellow workman, was also injured by the same ma-chine. Carelessness was the cause of the fatal ac-cident, and no person now hving is responsible for it.

Demanding Damages

Patrick Conden and Henry Brunke, both in the

employ of the Brooklyn City Railroad Company,

were arraigned before Justice Delmar yesterday, or

complaint of Hugh McConnell, residing at 217 Nine-

teenth street. The latter claims \$3,000 damages for a broken leg and other injuries, which he alleges were inflicted upon him through the malice of the accused, who drove their car over him while he was in the act of crossing Court struct. The hearing of the case was put off until to-day. An inquest was held by Coroner Jones yesterday over the remains of a Mrs. Forsyth, who died in her apartments, over a gin mill, at No. 58 Summit street, south Brooklyn, from the effects of intem-

industrious man, who is employed at Long Branch, She has long been addicted to gross inebriety, and lavishly expended all the money she could got up-in the maddening bowl. She was smothered in the bedclottes, and a verdict of death from suffocation was rendered by the jury.

perance. Deceased was the wife of an honest and

Coroner Whitehill has concluded the inquest in the case of Mr. George Jackson, who was fatally burned by the explosion of a kerosene lamp, at his residence, 629 Leonard street, Williamsburg, on the residence, 629 Leonard street, Williamsburg, on the 20th inst. The oil was tested by Professor Squibb, who testified that it gave off explosive vapors at 96 degrees Fahrennelt. It was also ascertained that the oil was manfactured at the Washington Oil, Works, Newtown Creek, and the jury recommended that proceedings be taken against Hugh King, William Cullen and Thomas McGoey, the manufacturers of the dangerous oil. The jury also agreed that oil that could not stand a test of 120 degrees should not be allowed in the market.

The State Tax.

A delegation composed of office-holders and promisent citizens of the democratic party left Brooklyn nent citizens of the democratic party left Brooklyn last evening for the purpose of conferring with the State Board of Assessors at Albany, and of laying before that body the necessity of their reducing the rate valuation of real estate in Kings county. The total valuation upon which the basis of assessment is now made is \$208,000,000, which is regarded as excessive and unjust. Most streamous efforts will be made by the delegation, among whom are Congressman Kinselia, John C. Jacobs, William C. Kingsley and the members of the County Board of Assessors, to effect a reduction of at least \$20,000,000 in the total valuation of real estate.

Passengers' Rights.

A case involving the question of the rights of pas-engers to furnish the conductors of horse cars on the Brooklyn city radroad lines with change or submit to violent expulsion at the hands of the conduc-tor, came up before Police Justice Walsh yesterday. The complainant in the case (Charles Dennison) was The companiant in the case (Charles Dennison) was riging on a car on which Edwin Broon is conductor, on the evening of the 17th inst., when he tendered a mutilated stamp in payment for his fare. The defendant declined to accept it. Dennison offered a \$5 bill. The conductor said he should turnish the change or get off the car. This he refused to do, when the prisoner shoved him off the vehicle. Judge Walsh sentenced Broon to pay a fine of \$50 for the assault or be incarcerated at the Penttentiary for four monutes.